

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 911—FOREIGN EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the legislation to significantly increase and index the amount of earned income U.S. taxpayers working overseas may exclude from Federal income taxation.

Currently U.S. taxpayers working overseas may exclude up to \$70,000 of earned income annually from Federal income taxation.

As contemplated in the Economic Recovery Act of 1981, the foreign income exclusion originally was scheduled to increase to \$95,000. However, due to revenue considerations, the intended increases never became law.

The current \$70,000 exclusion is not indexed for inflation and is woefully inadequate. It has the effect of discouraging U.S. taxpayers from working overseas and this puts U.S. companies doing business overseas at a competitive disadvantage as compared to their foreign competitors.

The legislation I am introducing today would immediately increase the foreign earned income exclusion to \$100,000 from \$70,000 and would index the \$100,000 amount to allow it to keep pace with inflation. The increased foreign earned income exclusion will encourage U.S. taxpayers to seek employment with U.S. companies overseas, which in turn will help increase U.S. exports and jobs in the United States.

The legislation benefits all segments of our society and I welcome support of it from Members on both sides of the aisle.

KEY DOCUMENTS PROVE INNOCENCE OF JOSEPH OCCHIPINTI

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, as part of my continuing efforts to bring to light all the facts in the case of former Immigration and Naturalization Service Agent Joseph Occhipinti, I submit into the RECORD a document I received from the Drug Enforcement Administration in response to a Freedom of Information Act request I filed last year for all DEA documents related to any investigation of a company called Seacrest Trading. Through my investigation, I have come to learn that Seacrest Trading may be tied to all of the bodega owners who testified against Mr. Occhipinti in his 1991 civil rights trial. The document is an October 16, 1992, memorandum regarding a meeting of the Drug Enforcement Task Force Group. While the document does

not mention Seacrest Trading, the file title at the top of the document reads simply "Seacrest Trading Corp."

SEACREST TRADING CORP.

MEETING IN REGARD TO NTOC MONEY
TRANSMITTAL/WIRING SERVICES

Details

1. On October 5, 1992, at the offices of the New York State Banking Dept., 2, Rector Street, New York, New York, a meeting took place between the members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force/Group 1-63, Assistant District Attorneys of the Special Investigation Bureau—Special narcotics Court, and members of the Criminal Investigation Bureau—New York State Banking Dept.

2. The meeting was held in regards to Non-Traditional Organized Crime (NTOC) Money Transmittal/Wiring Services which are mostly operating illegally and which are sending approximately over \$500,000,000.00, most of which are believed to be proceeds from drug sales, out of the Washington Heights, New York area to the Dominican Republic. This amount is only representative of the actual documented figures. This is not represented to include illegal amounts that have been sent and not documented.

3. As of the aforementioned date, there are approximately ten (10) licensed money Transmittal/Wiring Services in the Washington Heights area. These particular businesses then sublease their license to agents and then the agents sublease the license to other subagents. In turn, numerous money services have saturated the area and fall under a single license.

4. All the business under a single license can then collect all revenues and restructure the amounts of each transaction to fall under the specified limits of \$100,000.00. Each transaction over \$10,000.00 has to be documented and reported to the U.S. Government on a Currency Transaction Report (C.T.R.).

5. At this time, if is a federal obligation to prosecute violators of CTR infractions, but it is not being enforced by the Federal Banking agencies. If in fact these laws are enforced, only a small fine is imposed as compared to the large amount of profits that are made to justify the criminal risk involved.

6. Special Narcotics Court as actively looking to empanel a Special Grand Jury to propose legislative changes within the New York State laws to regulate and prosecute these illegal Money Transmittal/Wiring Services.

7. California and Arizona have already moved to strengthen their State Banking laws. Their laws have lowered the risk of illegal activity and have forced CIR's to also be filed within the state level. The penalties and forfeitures seized have made the State Agencies self sufficient and excess profits have also returned to the state government to be used as seen fit for other state programs and state and local law enforcement.

8. Special Narcotics would want the state to better screen potential licensees and reduce the number of agents/subagents. This can be done through the issuance of a license to someone who had filed a more detailed application to enhance a better background check; no subagents would be allowed under this license to pinpoint accountability, and larger criminal financial penalties would be imposed to deter criminal activity; and to change the language of the statutes to be-

come applied enforceable under the charge of money laundering of criminal proceeds.

9. At the present, the State Attorney General's office working with the State Police have formed a Crime Proceeds Task Force unit to enforce the weak New York State Banking Con Laws and prosecute these criminal money agencies, but they have been hampered and legislatively fought by certain interest groups and not a single case has been initiated.

10. It was believed by all the agencies present, that by working together evidence can be compiled to introduce new legislation to strengthen state laws. These laws will forcibly prosecute and deter the existing easy ability of these criminal money agencies to send proceeds of criminal activities and launder these amounts to overseas accounts with no fear of law enforcement and our courts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my return to Washington from my congressional district on Monday, January 23, 1995. I was therefore not available to vote for rollcall Nos. 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on No. 25; "aye" on No. 26; "aye" on No. 27; "aye" on No. 28; and "aye" on No. 29.

SAVE USTTA!

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration promotes America as a destination for foreign travelers. Its annual budget is minuscule by Federal standards, but the return on this investment is immense.

In 1993, some 46 million foreign visitors came to the United States. They spent \$74.2 billion here, producing a \$22.2 billion positive balance of trade in travel and tourism.

Incoming international travel generates 909,000 jobs and a payroll of \$14.5 billion—not including jobs generated by the \$16.6 billion that foreign visitors spend to travel on U.S. airlines.

This October the first-ever White House Conference on Travel and Tourism will be held under the management of USTTA. Preliminary conferences will be held in all States to develop the national agenda; several State conferences have already been held. The very existence of USTTA is the Federal Government's recognition that travel and tourism is indeed an important sector of our economy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.